

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A composition for treating hard surfaces consisting of

- a) at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible compound as component A,  
which is prepared by ~~reacting~~
  - aa) crosslinking a compound selected from the group consisting of  
polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines grafted with  
ethyleneimine, polyether-amines and mixtures of said compounds, as  
component Aa,
  - ab) with a compound selected from the group consisting of bifunctional  
crosslinkers having, as a functional group, a halogenhydrin, glycidyl,  
aziridine or isocyanate unit or a halogen atom, as component Ab,  
thereby forming a crosslinked reaction product, and
  - ac) reacting the crosslinked reaction product with a monoethylenically  
unsaturated carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of  
acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethylacrylic acid, salts, esters, amides or  
nitriles of monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and  
mixtures thereof;
- b) at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic, nonionic,  
amphoteric and cationic surfactants, as component B;
- c) optionally at least one water-soluble organic solvent, as component C;
- d) optionally ammonia, alkanolamine or both ammonia and alkanolamine, as  
component D;
- e) optionally at least one acid selected from the group consisting of inorganic  
acid, carboxylic acid and sulfonic acid, as component E;

- f) optionally at least one builder, as component F;
- g) optionally auxiliaries and additives, as component G; and
- h) water.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 1, consisting of

- a) 0.01 to 40% by weight, of component A;
- b) 0.01 to 80% by weight, of component B;
- c) 0 to 50% by weight, of component C;
- d) 0 to 5% by weight, of component D;
- e) 0 to 5% by weight, of component E;
- f) 0 to 10% by weight, of component F;
- g) 0 to 5% by weight, of component G; and
- h) water,

so that the total amount of components A to G and water is 100% by weight.

Claim 3 (Original): The composition according to claim 1, wherein component Aa is a polyalkyleneamine.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein the component Ab is selected from the group consisting of epihalohydrin,  $\alpha,\omega$ -bis-(chlorohydrin) polyalkylene glycol ether,  $\alpha,\omega$ -bis(epoxide) of polyalkylene glycol ether, and bis-glycidyl ether or mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein component B is selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol sulfates, alkyl ether sulfates, fatty alcohol alkoxyates and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein component C is present and is selected from the group consisting of glycerol, propylene glycol, ethylene glycol, ethanol, isopropanol, n-propanol, ethylene glycol monobutyl ethers, propylene glycol monobutyl ethers and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The composition according to claim 1, wherein component D is present and is ammonia, monoethanolamine or both ammonia and monoethanolamine, component E is present and is selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid, citric acid, lactic acid and amidosulfonic acid or both component D and E.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of a water-soluble or water-dispersible compound consisting of:

- i) crosslinking of a compound selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine, polyether-amines, and mixtures of said compounds as component Aa,  
with

a compound selected from the group consisting of ~~at least~~ bifunctional crosslinkers having, as functional group, a halogenhydrin, glycidyl, aziridine or isocyanate unit or a halogen atom, as component Ab;

and

ii) reaction of the product obtained in step i) with a ~~compound selected from the group consisting of~~ monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, acid selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethylacrylic acid, salts, esters, amides or nitriles of monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof, as component Ac.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A water-soluble or water-dispersible compound prepared by a process according to claim 9.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A process for treating hard surfaces, comprising bringing the hard surfaces into contact with a composition according to claim 1.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process for the treatment of hard surfaces for rapid and streak-free drying, ease of soil release, reduction in or prevention of the condensation of water and the formation of dried-on traces of water on the hard surfaces, comprising the step of bringing the hard surfaces into contact with at least one water-soluble or water-dispersible compound which is prepared by ~~reacting~~

- aa) crosslinking a compound selected from the group consisting of polyalkylenepolyamines, polyamidoamines grafted with ethyleneimine, polyether-amines and mixtures of said compounds, as component Aa,
- ab) with a compound selected from the group consisting of bifunctional crosslinkers having, as a functional group, a halogenhydrin, glycidyl, aziridine or isocyanate unit or a halogen atom, as component Ab, thereby forming a crosslinked reaction product, and

- ac) reacting the crosslinked reaction product with a monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, ethylacrylic acid, salts, esters, amides or nitriles of monoethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A process for the treatment of hard surfaces for rapid and streak-free drying, ease of soil release, reduction in or prevention of the condensation of water and the formation of dried-on traces of water on the hard surfaces, comprising bringing the hard surfaces into contact with a composition as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process according to claim 11, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of glass cleaners, floor cleaners, all-purpose cleaners, bath cleaners, rinse aids, dishwashing detergents for hand or machine dishwashing, machine cleaners, paint degreasers and dairy cleaners.